



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias  
Northern District of Georgia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10/17/06

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan/>

CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

## **FORMER GBI AGENT SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR RECEIVING KICKBACKS IN GUN SELLING SCHEME**

Rome, GA- JAMES R. GARMON, 52, of Cartersville, Georgia, a former special agent with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, was sentenced today to one year and a day in federal prison by United States District Judge Harold L. Murphy for receiving illegal kickback payments and failing to properly maintain firearms records. The charges relate to GARMON's arranging the sale of firearms that had been seized by the Drug Task Force Unit of the Bartow County Sheriff's Office to a local pawn shop.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of the case, "To make a little extra money, this defendant, a former law enforcement officer, circumvented the process for legally disposing of seized firearms. We will continue to hold public servants, especially those officials who have sworn to enforce the law, to the highest standard of lawful conduct."

"It is extremely disappointing when any GBI employee is implicated in criminal activity, especially an individual sworn to uphold the law," said GBI Director Vernon Keenan. "The GBI cooperated fully with the FBI's investigation into James Garmon and took immediate administrative action when the allegations were brought to our attention."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: In 2003, GARMON met with officials at the Bartow County Sheriff's Office and agreed to act as an agent of that agency for the purpose of selling directly, and without benefit of a public bid process, firearms seized or forfeited by the Sheriff's Office. Georgia law requires that firearms seized by a Sheriff's Office either be retained by the Sheriff's Office for use in law enforcement, destroyed, or disposed of by advertising and selling the firearms to the highest bidder at a public auction. Between December 2004 and October 2005, GARMON brokered at least three separate deals between the Bartow County Sheriff's Office and "Warren's Pawn & Jewelry" for the sale of at least 81 firearms previously seized by the Sheriff's Office. These sales were done without the benefit of a public bid process. The market value of the firearms exceeded \$5000.

In exchange for providing firearms directly to the pawn shop, GARMON personally received kickback payments in cash, taking at least \$1,600 from the pawn shop to use for his own personal benefit. GARMON did not disclose these payments to the Sheriff's Office. GARMON resigned from the GBI in March 2006, after the GBI was advised of the results of this investigation.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the FBI and ATF.

Assistant United States Attorneys Glenn D. Baker and Kim S. Dammers prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).